

## 2017-18 TNReady Science Grades 5–8 Assessment Fact Sheet

### Science Assessment Overview

This fact sheet provides information about the TNReady science assessment in grades 5–8. The science assessments will assess the current Tennessee Academic Standards requiring students to demonstrate a deep conceptual understanding of scientific concepts in life science, earth and space science, and physical science. The science assessments for 2017-18 will assess current science standards. For information on academic standards, click [here](#). Students enrolled in a grade 5–8 science course will be assessed.

### Test Administration Schedule

For a full schedule of all statewide assessments, see the 2017-18 Statewide Assessment Schedule found [here](#). Science tests in grades 3–8 will be administered April 16-May 4, 2018.

### Test Administration Times

The time for administration of the TNReady science assessment in grades 5–8 is as follows:

| Assessment | Timing                |
|------------|-----------------------|
| Grades 5–8 | Subpart 1: 48 minutes |
|            | Subpart 2: 47 minutes |
|            | Total: 95 minutes     |

### Performance Levels and Scale Scores

Student performance on Tennessee’s statewide assessments is categorized into four performance levels. These performance levels will be updated to the new categories of Below, Approaching, On Track, and Mastered during the first operational test of the new standards in 2018-19.

Table 1 provides information regarding student achievement at each performance level for the TNReady science tests. This information is provided on student reports so that students, parents, and educators may interpret student results in a meaningful way.

**Table 1. Performance Levels**

| <b>Below Basic</b>  | <b>Basic</b>  | <b>Proficient</b>  | <b>Advanced</b>  |
|---|---|--|--|
| Students who perform at this level have not demonstrated mastery in academic performance, thinking abilities, and application of understandings that reflect the knowledge and skills specified by the grade/course-level content standards and are not prepared for the next level of study. | Students who perform at this level demonstrate partial mastery in academic performance, thinking abilities, and application of understandings that reflect the knowledge and skills specified by the grade/course-level content standards and are minimally prepared for the next level of study. | Students who perform at this level demonstrate mastery in academic performance, thinking abilities, and application of understandings that reflect the knowledge and skills specified by the grade/course-level content standards and are well prepared for the next level of study. | Students who perform at this level demonstrate superior mastery in academic performance, thinking abilities, and application of understandings that reflect the knowledge and skills specified by the grade/course-level content standards and are significantly prepared for the next level of study. |

Performance level scale score ranges for TNReady science assessments for grades 5–8 are provided in Table 2 below.

**Table 2. Performance Levels for the TNReady Science Grades 5–8 Assessment Scale Scores**

| <b>Assessment</b> | <b>Level 1</b> | <b>Level 2</b> | <b>Level 3</b> | <b>Level 4</b> |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Grade 5           | 600–722        | 723–750        | 751–798        | 799–900        |
| Grade 6           | 600–727        | 728–752        | 753–800        | 801–900        |
| Grade 7           | 600–720        | 721–751        | 752–791        | 792–900        |
| Grade 8           | 600–715        | 716–747        | 748–788        | 789–900        |

### **Additional Information**

- Please visit the [department's website](#) for more information about the statewide assessment program.

### **Test Administration Information**

Testing schedules are established **by the district at the school and/or district level**. It is at the district's discretion to allow schools to set their own testing schedules, independent of a district testing schedule. Please see details on subparts for each subject and grade

level on the updated testing times chart [here](#). Below are guidelines for the timing of assessments within the testing windows.

- All paper materials must be shipped back to the vendor within **three business days** following completion of testing. All test materials must arrive at the vendor no later than **one week** following test administration. Online tests are automatically transmitted to the vendor electronically as they are submitted. The testing administration window is April 16-May 4, 2018.

Districts must complete test administration by the end of the three-week testing window.

The science assessment for grades 5–8 consists of the following item types:

- Multiple choice
- Multiple select

For more information about item types, see the science blueprints [here](#).

### Test Delivery Information

The TNReady science assessments for grades 5–8 can be delivered via a computer-based test (CBT) platform called Nextera if the district chooses the option. Beginning with the 2019 administration, all assessments in grades 5–8 must be administered online. Grades 3 and 4 will continue to have the paper or online option.

- Paper-based versions (regular print and Braille) of the assessments are provided for students with disabilities who cannot access the assessments on the computer, as specified in their Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) or Section 504 plans.
- CBT accommodations (e.g., text-to-speech) are available for students whose IEPs or 504 plans indicate these accommodations.

For more information regarding accommodations, click [here](#).

### Practice Tests

The department will provide the following practice tools to support educators and students this fall.

- **Paper practice tests:** PDF versions of practice tests will be available and posted on EdTools ([here](#)) in Jan. 2018.
- **Online practice tests:** The online versions of the practice test will be available on the Nextera platform ([here](#)) in Jan. 2018 for grades 5–8.

### Classroom Assessment Builder (CAB)

The CAB—an online item sampler created by Questar—is now available for a “community preview” until **Dec. 15**. This release phase of the product will be used to gather input and feedback from educators on functionality. Questar will use that feedback to continuously

improve CAB. For more information about CAB, please view the CAB brochure and resources [here](#).